

2005 Annual Report



Columbus Parks and Recreation Department
P.O. Box 858
Columbus, IN 47202-0858
(812) 376-2680
www.columbusparksandrec.com





Parks and Recreation Board Members

Jerry Littrell, President
Clarissa Russell, Vice President
Brian Russell, Secretary
Rick Colglazier, Member

Chuck Wilt, Director

December 15, 2005

The Honorable Fred L. Armstrong
Mayor
City of Columbus
123 Washington Street
Columbus, IN 47201

Dear Mayor Armstrong:

It is with great pleasure that we present the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department's 2005 Annual Report. As in previous years, we have spent the year serving the community in a myriad of ways, providing important services and recreation opportunities for all citizens of Columbus and the surrounding area.

This year was another great success for the Parks and Recreation Department. We were a key partner in the Healthy Communities Bartholomew County on the Move project, assisting members of the community in their efforts to enjoy a healthy lifestyle. We also worked with the Columbus Visitors Center as hosts of the 2005 USSSA softball and basketball events. All sporting events in 2005 generated over \$7.5 million in tourism for the City and surrounding areas. We were also thrilled to celebrate the official opening of the Haw Creek Trail in April 2005, bringing our total miles of People Trails to 19 miles of scenic walking, running and biking trails for all to enjoy.

The above are just highlights of many projects and activities our staff has worked on in the past year, many of which are contained in the following report. We continue to take pride in our accomplishments while looking to continuously improve in the coming year. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Littrell
President, Parks and Recreation Board

Chuck Wilt
Director of Parks and Recreation

cc: Park Board
City Council
City Department Heads
CIT

MISSION STATEMENT

Enriching Lives...Building Community.

VISION STATEMENT

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department

- ✓ Is recognized on a local, state and national basis for providing the highest quality programs and facilities.
- ✓ Has a well trained, friendly and professional staff that is proud to serve the community.
- ✓ Anticipates and is responsive to the changing needs and desires of our community
- ✓ Is an active participant in a community-wide program successfully promoting healthy lifestyles and wise leisure choices.
- ✓ Is identified as the clearinghouse in Columbus and Bartholomew County for fun activities for children and families.
- ✓ Is a major partner in tourism and economic development through the development of park amenities that host and attract visitors to regional and national sports and cultural events.

Grant Awards

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department received several local grants, including a grant from the Columbus Park Foundation for youth scholarships, a grant from the Jolie Crider Reachout Fund to allow Boys and Girls Club participants to attend classes at Columbus Gymnastics Center and for maintenance of the Jolie Crider Skate Park, and a grant from the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation for maintenance of The Commons.

Staff Recognition and Awards

Mayor Fred Armstrong and the Columbus City Council received the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association's Essential Services Recognition and Community Support Award in January 2005 at the IPRA state meeting. This award was in recognition of the City's support of the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department as an 'essential service' for the community.



IPRA Essential Services Award, January 2005

PARKS AND RECREATION MAKES AN ECONOMIC IMPACT IN 2005

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department continued to be a major contributor to tourism in Columbus, thanks to its outstanding sports and recreation facilities. In 2005, over 24,000 out-of-town visitors attended events held at parks and recreation facilities including:

- ✓ USSSA Men's Major Softball National Invitational Tournament
- ✓ USSSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Indiana State Tournament
- ✓ USSSA Girls' 11 & Under, 12 & Under A and 16 & Under Fast Pitch Softball World Series
- ✓ Teddy Bear Classic Gymnastics Meet
- ✓ Senior Softball Tournament
- ✓ Columbus Express Invitational Youth Soccer Tournament
- ✓ Midwest Section, USTA Girls Tennis National Qualifier
- ✓ Fall Foliage Hockey Tournament
- ✓ Thanksgiving Hockey Tournament
- ✓ Donner Swim Club Swim Meets
- ✓ Lazy River Festival of the Arts
- ✓ Soccer Express Tournament
- ✓ Women's Hockey Tournament
- ✓ Pepsi Indiana Junior Golf Tournament
- ✓ USSSA 5 on 5 Basketball State Qualifier Tournament
- ✓ USSSA Fast Pitch Softball Super N.I.T. Tournament
- ✓ Martin Luther King Jr. Ice Competition
- ✓ A.S.A. Slow Pitch Women's "E" State Softball Tournament
- ✓ Indiana State Figure Skating Championships



The total economic impact of these events has been estimated by the Columbus Visitors Center to be over \$7.5 million in hotel, restaurant, gasoline and retail business. Columbus will be hosting more USSSA state, regional and national tournaments in the future and will continue to benefit from these sporting events.

DEPARTMENT CONTINUES WORK ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department was hard at work this year not only providing quality parks and recreation opportunities for the citizens of Columbus, but also participating in planning for 2006 and beyond. Building upon the success of 2004's meetings about the Department's new mission and vision statements and identification of six "critical success factors" to spearhead planning, many members of the Department were hard at work focusing on the next steps for strategic planning.

At the Department's annual staff planning retreat on December 2, staff and Board members learned how each of the six critical success factors were progressing. In addition, those in attendance learned about and gave input on ways to measure success for each critical success factor.

In the coming year, more work is anticipated on each of the critical success factors. We are excited about the possibilities for change that have come out of this year's work and are looking forward to more progress in 2006.



CHANGES TO PARK BOARD TO TAKE EFFECT IN 2006

Several changes to the make-up of the Columbus Park Board are scheduled to take place in 2006 with the retirement of Rick Colglazier and the naming of Ryan Brand to the Board.

Rick Colglazier was appointed to the Columbus Park Board on January 1, 2000. Over the last six years, Rick has served as President of the Board for three separate terms (2001, 2003 and from September through December 2004 after the departure of Mike Gillespie). Rick has also served as the Park Board representative to the Columbus/Bartholomew County Planning Commission and the Columbus Area Arts Council Board.

During his time with the Columbus Park Board, he has helped to guide the Parks and Recreation Department toward many successes, including the expansion of the People Trails with the addition of the Haw Creek Trail in 2004, as well as the growing reputation of Columbus as an amateur and recreational sports destination for national tournaments and events.

Since June 1980, Rick has served in the insurance and financial services business, assisting businesses with employee benefit programs. He also works with individuals and families to protect, save and grow their financial resources.

Rick is the proud husband to Cindy, his wife of 28 years, and proud father to daughter, Megan (24) and son, Tyler (19). He and his wife enjoy spending time with their children and their granddaughter, Carly.

Thank you, Rick, from all of us at the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department, for your years of service and friendship!

The newest member of the Columbus Park Board, Ryan Brand, was born and raised in Columbus. A graduate of Columbus North High School, Ryan attended Ball State University before returning to Columbus to join his family's business, Brand's Inc., as the third generation to manage the business. Ryan also donated his time to the diving and swimming program he enjoyed during his youth as a coach for the Columbus North Diving Team. Under his tutelage, the team won three state championships during his six year tenure as coach.

Ryan has been married to his wife, Gretchen, for 8 years and is the proud father of two daughters, Ellie, age 4, and newborn Amelia. He is excited about working with the Parks and Recreation Department as a member of the Board and looks forward to assisting the Department with upcoming projects and activities.

HAW CREEK TRAIL GRAND OPENING APRIL 16



City officials, donors and project volunteers open the trail!

The Columbus Park Foundation and the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department enjoyed a great success with the grand opening of the Haw Creek Trail. During the afternoon on Saturday, April 16, Mayor Fred Armstrong, along with major donors, project contributors and supporters of the project, cut the ribbon to officially open the Haw Creek Trail at the trail entrance at Columbus Regional Hospital at the 18th Street Bridge.

The Haw Creek Trail adds six additional miles of People Trails to the Columbus People Trails system, bringing the total mileage to 19 miles.

The new section of trail extends from the intersection of State Street and Central Avenue north along Haw Creek under the 10th and 17th Street bridges, past Greenbelt Golf Course and Columbus Regional Hospital, across 25th Street and north through several neighborhoods to Rocky Ford Road. At this time, a small section of trail crossing Haw Creek remains unfinished awaiting INDOT's realignment of Marr Road. The trail currently detours west along Rocky Ford Road and north along Middle Road to Bakalar Airport, where it joins the existing trail near Ivy Tech and IUPUC.

In addition to refreshments, provided by generous donations from Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Deb Schmucker, Force Construction and the Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, attendees at the grand opening had the opportunity to vote with quarters to select the bench that will be placed along the Haw Creek Trail. Mayor Armstrong also recognized John McCauley for his extraordinary efforts to raise funds to construct the new section of People Trails with a special presentation during the ceremony.

Many community partners were also on hand to celebrate. Healthy Communities led a walking scavenger hunt along the trail immediately following the ribbon cutting. The Columbus Bicycle Club offered a free Family Fun Bike Ride and the Columbus Running Club led a free Family Fun Run along the Haw Creek Trail. With so many ways to experience the newest addition to the People Trails system, participants came prepared to enjoy the new trail. Commemorative t-shirts were sold at the event with all proceeds going toward the Columbus Park Foundation's Fund for People Trails.

USSSA SPORTING EVENTS RETURN TO COLUMBUS IN 2006

After enjoying great success with 2005 USSSA events, including our first I.B.A. 5 on 5 Regional Qualifying Tournament in April, our first national Men's Slow Pitch Softball Major National Invitational Tournament in May, the Girls' Fast Pitch State Tournament in June and the main event, the USSSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball World Series in July, Columbus has once again been tapped to host these and more events in 2006. Returning from a successful trip to the United States Specialty Sports Association's (USSSA) National Conference, Mayor Fred Armstrong announced that Columbus will once again host several USSSA events in 2006, including a return of the popular Girls' Fast Pitch Softball World Series July 24-30, 2006.

During the week long conference in Jacksonville, Florida, Mayor Armstrong, along with Lynn Lucas, Executive Director of the Columbus Area Visitors Center, Chuck Wilt, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Columbus, and several other staff members from the Visitors Center and the Parks and Recreation Department continued to build upon the already strong relationships with USSSA officials in several sports areas, including basketball, softball and baseball. The result of these relationships will be seen in Columbus in the form of continued sporting events in 2006, including:

February 25-26, 2006 & April 1-2, 2006	5 on 5 Basketball Regional Qualifier (50+ teams; 3rd grade –8th grade male and female tournaments)
May 20-21, 2006	Men's Slow Pitch Softball Major (Professional) National Invitational Tournament (30-40 teams)/Men's Amateur Slow Pitch 'C' NIT
June 16-18, 2006	Girls' Fast Pitch State Tournament (100+ teams)
July 1-2, 2006	Men's Amateur Slow Pitch Softball 'D' & 'E' NIT/'Legends of Lincoln' (30-40 teams)
July 24-30, 2006	Girls' Fast Pitch Softball World Series (16 and Under B, 18 and Under) (100+ teams)

Columbus will also host several smaller USSSA Softball tournaments between April and October 2006 which will bring an additional 300 teams to the area, generating millions of dollars in tourism revenue for the community.

Based on 2005 figures, the Columbus Visitors Center estimates that direct expenditures (including food/beverage purchases, lodging, fuel, shopping and entertainment spending) during last year's three major USSSA events exceeded \$4 million. When factoring in the economic impact of all USSSA events in 2005, including additional softball tournaments and last year's USSSA Basketball Tournament, the total economic impact was nearly \$6 million for Columbus and Bartholomew County.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Aquatics Programs

- ✓ The public swimming season is based on the school year, with Donner Aquatic Center opening the day after school ends and closing on the Sunday before school resumes. In 2005, DAC was open for swimming from Tuesday, May 24 through Sunday, August 14, a total of 83 days.
- ✓ The weather for the most part was hot and dry, which was very good for pool attendance. There were over 49,261 visits to the pool, compared to 42,000 in 2004. There was a period of free swimming offered each day the pool was open. We estimate that there were 12,815 visits during these times, compared to 10,500 in 2004.
- ✓ 657 enrolled in DAC's 2005 American Red Cross "Learn to Swim" group lesson program. This compares to 794 in 2004 and continues a decline in enrollment over the past several years. Three two week sessions of morning and evening lessons were offered. Private lessons were also offered.
- ✓ A number of new activities were initiated in 2005 to make the aquatic experience more enjoyable. These included the following:

Birthday tent – groups could reserve a 10' x 15' tent, picnic tables and admission for up to 10 children and 2 adults. There were 12 rentals this first year.

Pre-school Swim time – Each Saturday between 10 and 11 AM the leisure pool was open for parents and children 6 years of age and under. Admission was \$1.00 per person. An average of over 60 parents and children took advantage of that special time.

Climbing Wall at the Pool – On 3 days during the summer a 25' high climbing wall was brought in for patrons to try their skills at rock climbing. There were 183 different climbers who tried to reach the top. A \$2.00 fee was charged for unlimited climbs during the 2.5 hours the wall was present each time.

Dive-In Movies – DAC hosted two dive-in movie nights, in which children and adults could float in the pool while viewing a feature film. Using a rear screen projection system, we presented "Shark Tale" on June 18 and "Shrek 2" on July 23. In spite of very cool temperatures, close to 90 attended each of the movies.

Karaoke Talent Day – A full blown karaoke system was brought in on an afternoon in August, and adults, teens, and youngsters sang to their favorite melodies.



National Aquatics Week – We celebrated National Aquatics Week July 18 – 22 with a variety of special activities, games, and prizes. Every week of the season there was a special event to engage the patrons in attendance.

End of Summer Doggie Swim – Following the final public swim session on Sunday, August 14, DAC collaborated with Columbus Animal Control and Columbus Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) to host a time for dog owners to bring their pooches for a swim in Donner Pool. A total of 84 dogs were brought to the event, which ran from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Providers of animal care services and supplies were present to offer information to pet owners. Of the \$5.00 entry fee, \$3.00 was contributed to the CARE spay and neutering program.



✓ We provided special group rates to community groups attending public sessions. Groups attending on a regular basis in 2005 were FFY/Boys and Girls Club, Children Inc., and Hope Community Center. There were 14 private rentals during the 2005 season, compared to 13 in 2004. Return renters included Richards Elementary School, Columbus Regional Hospital, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boy Scout Pack 555, St. Bartholomew Parish, and Columbus North football team.

✓ The Donner Swim Club continued to use DAC for its summer morning practices six days a week. However, because the water depth is less than four feet at each end of the competition pool it does not meet requirements to conduct competitive swim meets. Capital funds have been appropriated to make improvements to the competitive pool in 2006. Included is the lowering of the floor to 4' at the north end and installation of a moveable floor, which will permit the south end depth to vary between 3' and 5'. We expect to have several swim meets in 2006.

✓ While the vast majority of the aquatics program is associated with Donner Aquatic Center, a few activities are offered during other months of the year. The Masters adult lap swimming program permits lap swimming for an hour and a half Monday through Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoon at East High School pool. For the 2004-2005 indoor season 13 full season, 12 half season, and 49 five visit passes were sold.

✓ In addition, eight men and women took part in our winter Scuba Diving course, 20 teens participated in an American Red Cross Lifeguard course, and eight students completed an American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor course.

Gymnastics Programs

- ✓ In 2005, CGC instructional classes had 1,918 gymnasts enrolled.
- ✓ Our preschool and school aged open gym sessions had 2,760 children participate in 2005.
- ✓ Field trips for both private schools and BCSC brought 391 children to visit the Columbus Gymnastics Center.
- ✓ Birthday Parties were a great success this year with 58 parties for 1,160 participants in 2005.
- ✓ Our enrichment program is a free program funded by a grant from the Jolie Crider Reach Out Fund. A total of 1,040 children of the Boys and Girls Club of America and Columbus North High School's Pre-school were able to enjoy the sport of gymnastics. The Columbus Gymnastics Center hosted three sleepovers with ten Priority One Teen Council of Bartholomew County members attending each.
- ✓ Columbus Power Elite Cheerleading was a big success this year. We had a total of three squads and 45 cheerleaders.
- ✓ The CGC Competitive Gymnastics Team offers petite elite through level 8. We have a total of 33 gymnasts.
- ✓ We provided 200 free open gym passes for Bartholomew County Public Library Summer and Winter Reading Club.
- ✓ We employed Kari Noland and Katie Ruddell through a Co-Op program at Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation.



Gymnastics Competitive Program

Hollie Mendenhall was hired in 2005 as the new competitive team Head Coach. Originally from Indiana, she has recently moved back to the area. She has been involved with gymnastics in some form for over 20 years and is very excited to be here and is looking forward to 2006.

There are a total of 33 girls enrolled in the team program. The first level, Petite Elite, is designed for the younger child that is looking to learn the skills needed to be involved in the competitive team. In the next level, Pre-team, girls start learning gymnastics routines and get a more in-depth understanding of skills. After completing these two levels, girls are eligible for the competitive team. The teams travel all over Indiana and surrounding states to compete against other teams. This is a very fun time and the gymnasts really look forward to competing.

The team has already had a busy year and much more is planned as they move through the competitive season. In October 2005, the team participated in the Ethnic Expo Parade, and took a team outing to the IMAX Theater and Spaghetti Factory in Indianapolis. In November 2005, the team held its first annual Mock Meet. This was great practice for the girls and helped them to prepare for their first meet in December. The girls are holding a spaghetti dinner fundraiser in December where they will serve dinner to friends and family. The team's competitive season ends with the Indiana State meet in March and the Cincinnati Zoofest held in Cincinnati Ohio. These are sure to be a fun meets for all involved and a great way to end out the year.

Hockey and Ice Skating Programs

- ✓ Hamilton Center programs enjoyed great attendance in 2005. After more aggressive marketing, our group class program grew greatly in the fall. Group lesson and Intro to Hockey (youth & adult) programs had a total of 839 participants. Adult Hockey had 53 players this season. The Youth Hockey House League had 110 players participating. Public Sessions were also well attended, with 7,000 skaters participating in these fun, family-friendly activities.
- ✓ Several area organizations took advantage of reduced group rates this year. Lock-ins offered by the Center hosted 300 participants in 2005. Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation had 645 students attending skating sessions this year. Private rentals were attended by nearly 1050 skaters, while 850 children attended birthday party rentals. Surrounding area hockey teams rented the arena 35 times during the 2005 season with approximately 500 players participating.
- ✓ In January, Hamilton Center hosted the 6th Annual MLK Basic Skills Figure Skating competition drawing 190 skaters from Indianapolis, South Bend, Fort Wayne, Evansville, Bloomington and Columbus. There were 58 skaters that train at Hamilton Center participating in this competition.
- ✓ The facility hosted two hockey tournaments for Columbus Youth Hockey involving 26 teams from around the Midwest. The summer Culver hockey camp was filled to capacity with 40 players participating. Columbus Squirt Travel took first place at the Fall Foliage Tournament and also placed first at Champaign, IL Tournament. Columbus Bantam Travel won at the Buckeye Tournament in Ohio as well as Silver Sticks Regional in Ft Wayne and will be traveling to North American Silver Sticks finals in Ontario, Canada. Columbus Icemen High School Varsity took first place title at the Annual Turkey Tournament held at Hamilton Center.

Sports Programs

- ✓ Sports Programs had a successful year in 2005, with approximately 27,150 participants in youth and adult sports. This includes softball (tournaments and regular season), basketball, youth baseball, volleyball, soccer, table tennis, kickball, tennis, youth sports camps and the batting cage.
- ✓ Youth soccer and baseball continued to be strong programs with nearly 3,100 area youth participating. Special thanks to the Columbus Youth Soccer Association Board and the Columbus Babe Ruth Baseball Board for their hard work and dedication toward helping provide top notch youth programs. Also, a special thanks to all of the baseball team sponsors for their financial support.
- ✓ Interest in adult sports continued with over 4,000 participants enrolled in programs. Soccer, basketball, volleyball, kickball and softball continue to be popular sports.
- ✓ The 6th Annual Bill Stearman 3-on-3 Shoot-Out, co-hosted by Parks and Recreation and the Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center, was a success. There were 264 youth and adult basketball players displaying their skills at Columbus North High School.
- ✓ The Columbus Softball Association reported 184 teams with 2,760 players participating in summer and fall leagues. Thanks to the Columbus Softball Association for their work to improve the quality of softball in Columbus.
- ✓ Lincoln Park Softball Complex was once again a top-notch hosting complex for adult softball and girls' fast pitch softball tournaments. 554 teams participated in tournaments at Lincoln Park. These tournaments brought thousands of people from throughout the U.S. and Canada to Columbus. The highlight of the year was the 2005 11 and Under, 12 and Under A and 16 and Under B USSSA Girls' Fast Pitch World Series, which brought 97 teams and their families and fans to Columbus for the week of July 24-31.
- ✓ The summer tennis program continued to have success with 262 participants. Special thanks to Tennis Director Mike Burt for his help and support.
- ✓ The first ever Adult Kickball league took place at Lincoln Park this Fall. The league was a huge success with approximately 120 adults on 8 teams showing off their playing skills. We had a positive response and growing interest from adults who did not participate and expect the league to grow in years to come. We will continue to look at non-traditional sports for more adults to enjoy as part of their recreation in Columbus.

Golf Programs

- ✓ Our golf facilities continued to enjoy tremendous support from the community. Our new 5-hole rates in 2005 allowed many golfers the opportunity to squeeze in a round at Greenbelt when otherwise unable to do so. As of November 2005, Greenbelt Golf Course had provided 20,744 rounds of golf to the community, a slight increase over 2004. Rocky Ford Par-3 Golf Course rounds also increased by 13% to 14,887 rounds in 2005.
- ✓ The Junior Golf Program was at maximum participation in 2005 with 63 participants playing during five classes, indicating the desire for golf in our community and the quality programming offered by both courses. The Men's and Women's clubs, the Senior League and the Junior Golf Club also remained strong performers in 2005.
- ✓ Both the Greenbelt and Rocky Ford Par-3 courses were in excellent shape throughout the season, adding to the enjoyment and satisfaction of our customers.

Recreation and Special Events Programming

- ✓ During summer and fall 2005, the Department's Recreation Division entered into a new partnership with several organizations in Columbus to present a new series of classes called "PIE"-Partners in Education". These classes covered a wide range of topics and took place in a variety of locations in Columbus. Most of these classes were geared toward seniors, but many of the topics had appeal for younger participants.
- ✓ The summer Recreational Day Camp program continued to grow in popularity in 2005. A total of 383 campers ages 3-14 enrolled in a variety of week-long theme camps. This was an increase of over 75 children from 2004. "Disney Days" camps for ages 3-4 & 5-7 were full with 30 children each and several more on the waiting list for each age group. Another camp with a large increase in enrollment was "Project: D*R*A*M*A". This camp is conducted in partnership with the Columbus North Theater Department. Over 45 children were enrolled in 2005.
- ✓ Family and adult activities again proved to be popular draws in 2005. Family events included the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Holiday Creations Fall Craft Show, the Spring Craft Show, Trick or Treat Tales, Donner Park Variety Shows, the annual Halloween Costume Contest, Mad Scientists family science night, Family Bingo, Mom & Me for Tea, and Santa's Workshop. New this year was an additional "Community Cast-A-Ways" garage sale in October. This sale was added in response to the continued success of the already scheduled March and November sales. These sales have been full for several years with long waiting lists. Another new family event was part of the "Partners in Education" program-"Ghostly Tales" was held at Youth Camp in October. New adult classes offered included knitting classes.

✓ The Department was again proud to assist with and co-host several community special events. Donner Park/Donner Center & Mill Race Park continued to be popular venues with approximately 40 special events and rentals held in these facilities. These events included: Bark in the Park, Free Fabulous Fridays, annual Hospice Concert, Art in the Park, Lazy River Festival of the Arts, Mill Race Race/Mayor's Walk, Families Helping Families fundraising event, and the Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree Concerts. New in 2005 were the Bartholomew County Library Reading Club events and the Festival of the Young Child. A highlight of the special events at Mill Race Park was the return of "Country in the Park" after a 10 year absence. This event, co-sponsored with the Columbus Area Arts Council and radio station WKKG drew approximately 3,000 people to enjoy a free evening of country music. Rentals at Mill Race Park included a fund raising concert for Turning Point, Columbus Symphony Orchestra Concert, Family Services Fun Fest, church services and weddings. The Department also supported the CEEN (Columbus Entertainment and Events Network) Pre-Race at Mill Race concert in May and the Kiwanis Duck Race in the White River in October. Our Bark in the Park event doubled the number of vendors displaying items and services for dogs and their owners. In addition, Columbus Parks and Recreation Department once again sponsored the Columbus City Band, who performed 13 concerts during 2005.

✓ The Teen Council, with support from the Parks and Recreation Department and Foundation for Youth, continued to sponsor several concerts and events in 2005. "Battle of the Bands" and "Back to School Bash" continued to be very popular with local teens. "Java Jive" in April and the "After the Game Dance" in August were also well attended. The four events drew approximately 2,000 teens total. A highlight of the year was the "Drive-In Movie" and concert held in October at the United Way Center. The Teen Council sponsored this new event in conjunction with the Youth Development Council. A company from Ohio provided the equipment for an actual "drive-in" movie. Approximately 350-400 people attended this event. They also held a pumpkin pie eating contest in November that raised approximately \$100 for the Red Cross. The annual After Prom Party for teens, co-sponsored with Foundation for Youth and the parents of North and East juniors and seniors drew approximately 800 students.

✓ Pre-school and youth recreational programs were very popular again in 2005. These programs included 13 day camps, craft and holiday classes, field trips, Super Sitters, Acting Up!, Junior Mill Race Players, the Kids/Teens Only Garage Sale, the Youth Fishing Derby and a new series of classes for ages 8-14 called "Art Attack!". A total of 600 were registered in these programs. The Youth Fishing Derby doubled in enrollment from 22 in 2004 to 44 in 2005. An additional Super Sitters class was conducted this year at Parkside School for their Girl Scout program.



✓ During the summer of 2005, the Department continued to offer a variety of free or reduced fee recreational activities. These included the 7 week, structured, supervised playground program offered at 6 locations for ages 6-12. These sites were: Parkside School, Mead Village Park, Ninth St. Park, Pence St. Park, Harrison Ridge Park and, new in 2005, McCullough's Run Park. Combined attendance at all sites was 1,360 children, with 130 children alone participating at the new site at McCullough's Run Park. The four Free Fun Days held this summer drew record crowds of approximately 300-400 persons for each one. New themes for 2 of the Fun Days "Mad Science Day" & "Disney Day" contributed to the increase in attendance. Additional free activities included: Noon Kid Concerts, Fabulous Fridays, Donner Variety Shows, Bark in the Park, Mill Race Live Concerts, Halloween Costume Contest, Columbus City Band Concerts, Easter Egg Hunt, Family Bingo Night, Country in the Park, and Festival of the Young Child. These free events attracted over 10,000 participants.

✓ The Parks and Recreation Department's Community Theatre program, Mill Race Players undertook a monumental 6 month project producing *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. The Royalties were just released for Community Theatre programs in 2004. Another first for Mill Race Players was to partner with the Columbus Philharmonic Orchestra for the production. Following the success of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, a Mill Race Players' focus group was formed in the fall to begin the process of looking toward the future of Community Theatre. A partnership with CAAC and the Parks and Recreation Department was formed to explore areas of support that would be needed for the Mill Race Players to go on their own. The partnership has agreed upon their goal to encourage and nurture an active and viable amateur theatre organization that can provide theatrical stage performances for the Columbus community and give local non-professional adult actors, directors and theatre support staff an opportunity to produce theatrical events. The Parks and Recreation Dept. will continue to coordinate and facilitate children's drama programs, including Acting Up, Project Drama Camps held at North Auditorium, Camp M*A*D held at Columbus Youth Camp and Jr. Mill Race Players.

Park Operations

✓ In 2005, over 1,582 hours of Park Operations labor support were dedicated to special events. These included After Prom, City Easter Egg Hunt, Bus Rodeo, Battle of the Bands, Country in the Park, Lazy River Festival of the Arts, Variety Shows, Popfest, Swim Meets, Teddy Bear Gymnastics Meet, World Series, Hospice Concert, Walk-a-Thons, Ethnic Expo, Touch-a-Truck, Bark in the Park, Families Helping Families, Tour de Trails, Art in the Park and the Festival of Lights parade. These special events enrich community and family life with arts, athletic and recreation activities and continue to be a priority for Park Operations.

✓ Employees completed 371 maintenance support work orders in addition to comprehensive routine preventive maintenance schedules and special projects. Maintenance support for special and casual park activities make our parks safe, clean and enjoyable.

- ✓ In 2005, Park Operations planted 66 additional trees and shrubs within the park system to further add to the natural beauty of these green spaces. In addition, another oak tree was added to the River Rats' grove in Mill Race Park for Arbor Day.
- ✓ Park Operations used 1,239.5 hours of volunteer labor in 2005. These included volunteer labor from Community Corrections, Sierra Club, Developmental Services, Cummins Inc., Grace Lutheran Church VBS Program, At Risk Kids, East High School Hands-on Training, and a college student who donated two-weeks labor to the groundskeeping department. Volunteer activity keeps people engaged socially, contributing to their health and longevity.
- ✓ Park Operations employees attended 584 hours of seminar and workshop training in 2005. These included Park & Recreation Maintenance Management School, ISA Conference & Trade Show, International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo, IAA Conference, Midwest Turf Expo, OFA Trade Show, America in Bloom Symposium, NRPA Conference, Turfgrass & Ornamental Pest Control Workshop, Nurserymen's Trade Show, Advanced Tree I.D. Workshop, Columbus in Bloom field trip, and OSHA 10-Hour Course.
- ✓ Park Operations employees also received 274 hours of health and safety training in 2005 (approximately 9 hours per person). This included bloodborne pathogens annual safety training, Ask a Nurse Day, Department Safety Committee meetings, and monthly employee health and safety meetings.
- ✓ An additional five miles of people trails were added to the system, bringing the total to 19 miles of trail maintenance.
- ✓ The mowing crew mows over 600 acres of park and non-park turf. In 2005, they also supported the Police Department in the mowing of the PAAL football fields.
- ✓ Park Operations supports Community Development through the maintenance of State Road 46 (entrance to the city), landscape maintenance of downtown trees, alley ways and parking lots.
- ✓ The floriculture team designs, installs and maintains eight flower beds plus the entire downtown flower pots and hanging baskets program.
- ✓ Park Operations is also proud of our professional certifications. 1) The Parks and Recreation Department has five licensed pesticide applicators: Tim Coomer, Rick Gilbert, Phil Harbaugh, Casey Ritz and Nick Rush. 2) Casey Ritz is an Accredited Plantsman. 3) Nick Rush and Phil Harbaugh are Certified Arborists. 4) Tim Coomer is a certified playground inspector. 5) Graduates from the two-year Park Maintenance Management School at Oglebay: Gary Smith and James Johnson.
- ✓ Shining Star awards were presented in 2005 to Moose Foster, Verna Morrison, Casey Ritz, Nick Rush and Steve Watkins.



2005 CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

- ✓ Blackwell Park Soccer Complex had another phase completed this year. A new maintenance structure was added to the well building this year by Dunlap & Co. A new identification sign was installed by Taylor Bros.
- ✓ Par 3 has a new entry sign, tee bed markers and fencing around the perimeter of the course. The sign was installed by Taylor Bros., the tee bed markers were installed by Repp and Mundt and the fencing was installed by our Park Ops staff and City Services staff.
- ✓ Portions of the cart paths at Greenbelt were overlaid by Milestone and the tee totems were installed by Repp and Mundt. The clubhouse received a facelift with a new ceiling and lighting. That work was installed by Repp and Mundt.
- ✓ Clifty Fast Pitch diamonds now have protective netting over home-plate. This work was completed this past spring by Skobel Fencing. The middle parking lot has been expanded and re-stripped. That work was completed by Milestone. The Jolie Crider Skate Park was repaired by Taylor Bros.
- ✓ Donner Park has new sidewalk along Lafayette St. that was installed by Milestone.
- ✓ Donner Aquatic Center renovations have been put under contract with Smock Fansler Construction
- ✓ Mill Race Center traffic study was completed and design services for the Round About were retained with Jansen and Spaan. The site survey was also completed by Jansen and Spaan.
- ✓ Silver Creek Engineering assisted us in developing plans for the renovation of the second level walkway at The Commons. That work was completed by Dunlap and Co. The Commons stage received a number of electronic improvements.
- ✓ Hamilton Center received a new water treatment system. Dunlap will be installing new roof top units, and Grantham will be providing a new energy management system.
- ✓ Columbus Gymnastics Center will be receiving new carpet.
- ✓ Lincoln Park's Diamond #6 will be receiving new lights.
- ✓ Case Construction sealed and striped a number of parking lots.
- ✓ Snow guards were installed at the Park Operations Building.
- ✓ People Trail planning for the next sections has started with HNTB providing the design.
- ✓ The PAAL football complex has been very successful. We continue to provide maintenance and design assistance to the program.
- ✓ Work on a master plan for the IUPUC campus was completed and approved by IUPUC. A seating plaza was designed and installed. We are currently working on a prairie meadow and a monumental sculpture at the main entry.

- ✓ We dedicated the first trail head. John Miller, an Eagle Scout, provided the assistance to construct and Page Gifford provided the funds to buy the materials.
- ✓ As part of the People Trail system, a new walk has been added along Middle Road and 25th Street.
- ✓ Columbus East Senior Aaron Baker completed his project to develop a sculpture tour and Senior Mandy Swamy completed her tree planting project at McCulloughs Run.

FUTURE PLANNING PROJECTS

- ✓ Mill Race Center.
- ✓ Amateur Sports Complex
- ✓ People Trail Expansion
- ✓ IUPUC University Park

2006 GOALS

During 2006, the Department intends to meet the following goals:

- ✓ Continue design process for Mill Race Center
- ✓ Complete the four-year Community Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update.
- ✓ Continue design and funding process for the \$750,000 People Trails grant.
- ✓ Complete Second Phase of Four Year Strategic Plan by December 31, 2006.
- ✓ Develop alternate sources of funding for current and future parks and recreation programs and facilities and expand donations into the newly created Columbus Park Foundation endowment fund.
- ✓ Support the development of the volunteer arm of the Columbus Park Foundation, the new Friends of the Parks organization.
- ✓ Continue staff involvement on community committees and projects, including:
 - Community festivals (Lazy River Festival of the Arts, Ethnic Expo and Festival of Lights Parade)
 - Columbus Area Visitors' Center Board and Executive Committee
 - Columbus Area Arts Council Board of Directors and Executive Committee
 - Foundation for Youth Board of Directors
 - Healthy Communities Initiative Board of Directors and Self-Care Action Team
 - Bartholomew County Historical Society Board of Directors
 - Priority One Teen Council
 - Mayor's Waterfront Development Committee
 - 20/20 Downtown Development Committee
 - Columbus In Bloom
 - Public Art Steering Committee



WITH SPECIAL THANKS...

Columbus Parks and Recreation would like to extend its appreciation for the continued support in 2005 from our community partners, sponsors, donors and volunteers.

Without your efforts, our programs would not be possible. We look forward to your cooperation and collaboration in 2006.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AND STAFF

Jerry Littrell.....	President, Columbus Park Board
Clarissa Russell.....	Vice President, Columbus Park Board
Brian Russell.....	Secretary, Columbus Park Board
Rick Colglazier.....	Member, Columbus Park Board
Chuck Wilt.....	Director
Ed Curtin.....	Assistant to the Director
Mike Keogh.....	Director of Business Services
Nancy Armuth.....	Director of Recreation
Nick Rush.....	Director of Park Operations and City Arborist
Steve Heck.....	Parks Maintenance Manager
Kathy McPeck.....	Recreation Program Coordinator
Katia Hatter.....	Marketing/Public Relations Coordinator
Mark Jones.....	Sports Programs/Athletic Facilities Manager
Patrick Senn.....	Sports Coordinator
Steve Cohen.....	Director of Golf
Dave Barriger.....	Greens Superintendent
Geary Baxter.....	Hamilton Center Manager
Jim Lemke.....	Hamilton Center Assistant Manager
Cindy Brummett.....	Office Manager
Carol Valentine.....	Head Secretary
Tonia Medaris.....	Bookkeeper
Crystal Martinez.....	Bookkeeper
Marsha Terry.....	FFY/CGC Registration Manager
Amber Lentz.....	FFY/CGC Registration Assistant
Barbara Mauzy.....	Hamilton Center Secretary
Verna Morrison.....	Park Operations Secretary
Annie Baugh.....	Secretary